

Hi Parents!

It's Pastor Jerrod. I want to share with you the vision for NDY. We are still committed to starting a righteous riot in our generation. We are still creating riotstarters!

We are gearing up for an exciting season this fall and it is important for you to know that we are an ever-evolving ministry. We don't want to get stuck in complacency. We are always challenging ourselves to grow. We don't just want to be an out-of-the-box ministry, we want to create a whole new shape!

Over the summer during much prayer and seeking God for direction, God shared with me that we need to help this generation get serious about the things of God because what they ARE serious about is killing them... destroying their purpose and future. This generation has so many other



priorities and things that are stealing their attention from the one who created them. The average student in our generation isn't necessarily unchristian or unchurched. If you ask the average high school student if he or she is a Christian, 80% will say yes! If your

student is on any social media platform, they have seen religious debates or Christian quotes and scriptures on their timeline. They have been exposed to church, their grandparents' church or other traditional settings... so unchurched, this generation is not. What I do see is that (as

God showed me) this generation has not made God a priority. They have chosen gods who can never satisfy them.

In Psalms, David says those who choose these gods will become just like them, stiff and lifeless. So what do we do as youth leaders? We ask the real question, "Are you trusting Jesus to lead your life?" That's a whole different conversation.

We pursue a generation that has not made Christ a priority and help them place him where he needs to be in their lives – at the center of it all!



NewDYouth leaders are carefully looking at what this pursuit looks like in the life of our ministry. We are looking to create environments that are attractive to the student that has not made Christ a priority. The avenues where we want to do this are through creative experiences, programming, crews (small groups), and mission work locally and internationally.

We have never been an event-driven ministry and we don't desire to become one; we will focus this season on building curriculum to challenge our students spiritually and relationally. Our small group experience, "The Way" will be more in-depth. "The Way" happens on Sundays in Collierville and Wednesdays in Hickory Hill. Students will be led by small group leaders, and peers, and will learn what it looks like to make Jesus a priority. One of our goals is to get them to draw their friends to do the same. These crews will be mini-families

and communities where students can make new friends and learn to live in relationship with Jesus.

The first three Wednesdays of the month in Hickory Hill and Sundays in Collierville, your student will meet with their assigned crew leader and crew members based on grade and gender. On the fourth Wednesday, we will have "Live at The



Way," an experience where students from all over the city are invited to meet in a place where they can worship, have fun and grow together!

We want your students to grow. We are focused on making disciples at New Direction and your students will be part of the same process. Please make it a priority to get them to "The Way" on Wednesdays or Sundays. You will be receiving information on how to get your student registered for a crew this season!

In addition to "The Way" we have created some weekend programming for young men and young women. These programs will be "real talk" environments to challenge them relationally! For our teen girls, we will have "The Chat Room" on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the month. For our teen guys, we will have "The Escape Room" once a month. We want to help young men escape stereotypes and mindsets that this generation has created for them and help them identify the image they were really created in.

Expect your students to have opportunities to be involved heavily in evangelism and missions. We cannot make people disciples of Jesus if we don't first tell them about Jesus. This summer, we strategically marked our "mission field" and we will evangelize and "gospelize (share the Gospel)" our surrounding communities. We have a great opportunity for students to get equipped for the mission field at an event on September 23 called Dare2Share Live. You are also welcome to participate! All the details on the youth website if you want more info.

Also, we are excited about the opportunity to serve in another country! For the first time, we will be taking a select number of students and leaders to Mexico on a mission trip. For more info email me ([Gunter.Jerrod@n2newdirection.org](mailto:Gunter.Jerrod@n2newdirection.org)) or speak with your student's crew leader.

We know the teenage years can be very challenging, but they can also be full of wonder and amazing growth for your student! We hope you will continue to support us in our effort to challenge this generation and create experiences that help your students to get serious about Christ.

We hope you will continue to be as involved in the spiritual lives of your students as you have been. Remember, we have to push them. Why? Because we push them in everything else... sports, debate team, cheerleading, and we overlook the need to push them in a relationship with Jesus. Let's help them make Jesus a priority! Be encouraged and be blessed!

Peace! -PJ